

Message Text

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41

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 SP-02 AF-08 SS-15 PM-04 NSC-05 CG-00

DOT E-00 /064 W

----- 130283

R 132115Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1352

INFO U.S. CUSTOMS, WASH DC 001

DEA HQTS WASHDC 001

U.S. CUSTOMS, MIAMI 002

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

UNCLAS MEDELLIN 0186

AMEMBASSY MEXICO FOR CUSTOMS ATTACHE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS FOR DEA

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA FOR NARCOR, DEA, AND ECON

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: SNAR, CO

SUBJ: REPORTED SEIZURE OF UNIBAN CHARTER VESSEL BY MIAMI CUSTOMS

REF: MEDELLIN 172

1. DR. RODRIGO JIMENEZ, MANAGER OF UNION DE BANANEROS DE URABA (UNIBAN), VISITED PRINCIPAL OFFICER AUGUST 12, TO REPORT SEIZURE OF UNIBAN-CHARTERED VESSEL CUBAHAMA BY MIAMI CUSTOMS. ACCORDING JIMENEZ, CUBAHAMA IS PANAMANIAN-FLAG VESSEL, CHARTERED FROM AUGUSTA SHIPPING CORPORATION (LIBERIAN) THROUGH AGENTS, SWANNEE STEAMSHIP CO., 1010 EAST ADAMS STREET, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA.

2. JIMENEZ STATED THAT CUBAHAMA SEIZED BECAUSE OF FORTY POUNDS COCAINE, IN TWO LOTS, FOUND ON BOARD. NARCOTICS HAD ALSO UNCLASSIFIED

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BEEN FOUND ON VESSEL ON PREVIOUS VISITS TO FLORIDA PORTS, BUT

HE WAS UNABLE TO SPECIFY DATES AND AMOUNTS.

3. JIMENEZ UNDERSTANDABLY DISMAYED BY SEIZURE OF SECOND UNIBAN SHIP IN FLORIDA (VESSEL EA STILL HELD IN TAMPA), AND HE SHOWED TELEX FROM AGENTS OF CUBAHAMA S OWNERS, THREATENING TO DISCONTINUE CHARTER RELATIONSHIP. JIMENEZ PARTICULARLY DISTRESSED THAT CUBAPTMA WAS SEIZED WHEN UNIBAN , ITSELF, HAD INFORMED COLOMBIAN AND AMERICAN AUTHORITIES (INCLUDING CONSULATE) THAT VESSEL CARRYING DRUGS, WHILE IT WAS STILL ON HIGH SEAS. DURING CONVERSATION, HE ALSO REITERATED EXPLANATION, OUTLINED REFTTEL, OF UNIBAN S EXTENSIVE EFFORTS CONTROL DRUG TRAFFIC ABOARD ITS SHIPS.

4. DURING PAST YEAR, JIMENEZ AND UNIBAN HAVE WORKED CLOSELY WITH DEA BOGOTA, NARCOR, AND CONSULATE IN ATTEMPT HALT NARCOTICS SHIPMENTS ABOARD UNIBAN S VESSELS. THEREFORE, WOULD

APPRECIATENVSTOMS CONFIRMATION OF SEIZURE OF CUBAHEAA, AND ANY DATA AVAILABLE RE VESSEL'S PAST NARCOTICS RECORD (DATES, AMOUNTS SEIZED, ETC.) FOR RELAY TO UNIBAN AND OUR INFORMATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG TRAFFIC, SHIP DETENTION, CUBAHAMA M/V
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MEDELL00186
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760313-0699
From: MEDELLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760856/aaaabwjb.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MEDELLIN 172
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <03 JAN 2005 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED SEIZURE OF UNIBAN CHARTER VESSEL BY MIAMI CUSTOMS
TAGS: SNAR, CO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006